



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 21, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial rain and snow showers are returning to areas from the ***Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies***, but mild, unfavorably dry weather persists elsewhere. The ***Southwest, Intermountain West, Great Basin, and central Rockies*** are experiencing the most serious effects of long-term precipitation deficits, including low reservoir levels and drought-stressed rangelands.
- ***On the Plains***, light snow is falling from ***Nebraska northward***, where a shallow snow cover is providing winter wheat with some protection from cold conditions. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather continues on the drought-affected ***central High Plains***, but wheat fields remain exposed to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a patchy snow cover and frozen soils favor off-season fieldwork, but a continuation of very cold weather is increasing livestock stress.
- ***In the South***, weekend frosts and freezes affected areas as far south as ***Louisiana's sugarcane areas*** and the northern part of ***Florida's citrus belt***. Most of ***Louisiana's*** sugarcane was already harvested and temperatures in ***northern and central Florida*** were not low enough to cause significant harm to citrus, but protective measures were necessary for some of ***Florida's*** other winter crops.

Outlook: An Arctic cold front will introduce the coldest air of the season into the ***eastern U.S.*** In the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, periods of rain and snow will accompany the cold weather. By week's end, freezes may again threaten ***Florida's citrus belt***. Farther west, bitterly cold weather will briefly affect the ***Plains and northern Rockies***, followed by a warming trend. Meanwhile, rain and snow will continue across the ***Pacific Northwest and northern California***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 26-30 calls for wetter-than-normal weather in the ***upper Great Lakes region, Pacific Northwest, southern Texas, and southern Florida***, but mostly dry weather elsewhere across the U.S. Below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***eastern Gulf Coast region, including Florida***, while above-normal temperatures are expected across the ***western and central U.S.***

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